

Under the High Patronage of H.S.H. Princess Charlene of Monaco



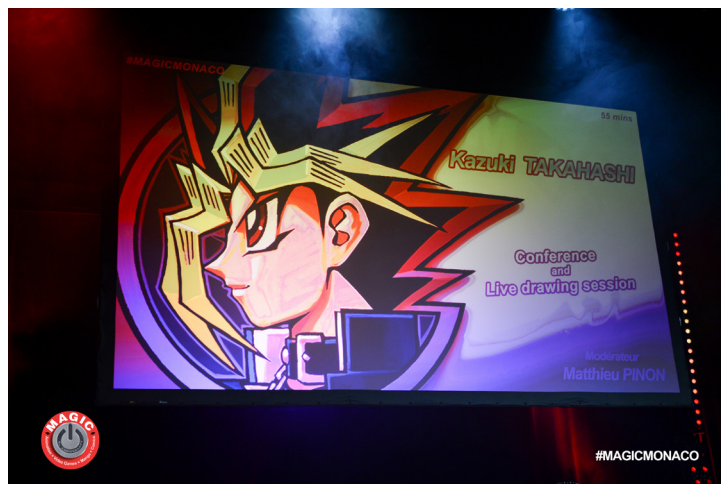
**PRESS KIT**  
**2023**

# EXCEPTIONAL TRIBUTE

to an outstanding artist

## Kazuki Takahashi

Because MAGIC is a big family, a minute of silence will be observed at the opening of the event in honor of the late Kazuki Takahashi, creator of the manga *YU-GI-OH!*, who had honored us with his exceptional presence in 2019.



# ÉDITO

MAGIC is finally back on February 25 and 26, 2023 after 3 years of absence caused by the global Covid 19 pandemic.

Who would have thought that a gala dinner organized to celebrate the opening of Shibuya Productions would turn into an unmissable annual pop culture event in the Principality of Monaco?

Who would have thought that after only 4 years, MAGIC will be exported to Japan, in Kyoto, Japanese culture's heart.

MAGIC is an event designed for all pop culture fans spanning art, science and education and I am particularly happy to meet you there with my whole team for this 6th edition.

For this great return, an exceptional program awaits you.

The MAGIC International Cosplay Masters (MICM) will welcome the greatest international cosplayers of the discipline, coming from Brazil, Germany, Vietnam, the United States and Japan.

Vietnam, the United States, Mexico, Chile, Turkey, Italy... for this new edition.

Attend and enjoy live this fantastic show where the performances of the cosplayers will dazzle you with their artistic and sporting levels!

The MAGIC International Manga Contest registers no less than 63 new candidates, presenting projects, some of which have nothing to envy to the professionals.

Discover the 5 finalists who will have the chance to pitch live in front of a jury of experts

who came specially from Japan. The battle will be tough to see your work published on Shonen Jump+, alongside legendary works such as Dragon Ball, One Piece or Naruto!

MAGIC is also and above all the transmission of knowledge and passions with cycles of conferences and round tables led by the most advanced specialists in their disciplines.

Not to mention the signing sessions to get closer to your favorite artists. Two days of madness, which will allow all our fans to turn their dreams into reality.

The key words conviviality and proximity are the strength of MAGIC and have confirmed in a few years that pop culture has its place in the Principality. From now on, the biggest names in these sectors know that Monaco is also a place for them at the crossroads of art, science and education

Let's meet on  
February 25 and 26, 2023!  
Come in great numbers!  
Cédric Biscay  
President & CEO  
of Shibuya Productions







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# MAGIC 'S PRESENTATION



As a lover of pop culture and Japan, it was only natural that Cédric Biscay, President and CEO of Shibuya Productions, wanted to develop and offer a unique event taking place in the prestigious setting of the Grimaldi Forum in Monaco in 2015, MAGIC Monaco.

MAGIC is a clever mix of several universes such as Manga, Comics, Animation, Video Game, Music, Sport, Cinema and High Technology, all of which have pop culture as a common vector.

Its rise in power over the years has naturally aroused the interest of the highest authorities. Thus, for this new edition, MAGIC will be placed under **the High Patronage of H.S.H. Princess Charlene of Monaco.**

## A unique show:

Unique in its conception, MAGIC Monaco stands out from other Pop Culture events around the world.

## Totally free access with registration only:

3,000 seats offered per day and not one more, in order to keep the event on a human scale.

## Accessibility for all audiences:



MAGIC stands out from other conventions by several aspects: conviviality, free access, proximity between the public and the guests. It reaches out to fans of anime, manga, comics, music, cinema or more generally pop culture, as well as families. In order to reinforce this accessibility, all of the Saturday conferences will be translated into sign language for our deaf and mute or hearing impaired public who are honored to attend the event.

### A panel of exceptional guests for each edition:

We were lucky enough to welcome Yuji Naka creator of Sonic, Buichi Terasawa author of Cobra, Yū Suzuki creator of the Shenmue Saga, US comic book legends John Romita Jr., Mike Mignola, Mark Millar, the late Ben Cross legendary actor in Chariots of Fire, Paul Haggis Oscar-winning screenwriter for Collision, Leiji Matsumoto creator of Albator, Tetsuya Nomura, Yoshitaka Amano, actors Wesley Snipes, Christophe Lambert and Dolph Lundgren, the great music stars Orelsan, IAM, Mai Lan or Kavinsky...



### Exceptional contests:

MAGIC International Manga Contest has attracted for 7 years nearly 500 authors of more than 50 countries from the 5 continents, who want to make their work known.

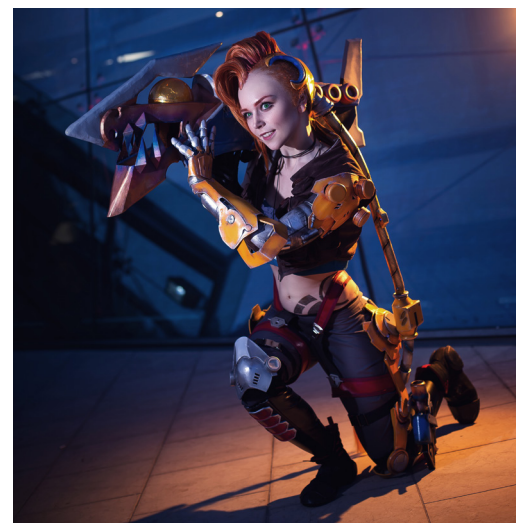
Indeed, it is the only contest in the world realized and produced in partnership with SHUEISHA (Shonen Jump), a Japanese publishing house, a genuine institution and holder of the greatest such as *Naruto*, *Dragon Ball* or the legend *One Piece*.

The winner will have his work published on the Shōnen Jump + website.

MAGIC International Cosplay Masters (MICM) gathers the greatest international cosplayers of the discipline, coming from Brazil, Germany, the Philippines, Mexico, the United States, Finland, Russia, Argentina, Indonesia, Italy...

In total, more than 40 nationalities have already been represented in this contest. A record!

This contest is considered as the antechamber of the haute couture because of the quality of its costumes.





## Key figures of MAGIC since 2015

+ 150 prestigious guests

+ 100 international cosplayers  
from 40 countries

+ 500 participants  
to the manga contest  
from 5 continents

+ 250 journalists

# 6 éditions



2015 original design  
Philippe Buchet



2016



2017 original design  
Lyse et Didier Tarquin



2018 original design  
Yoji Shinkawa

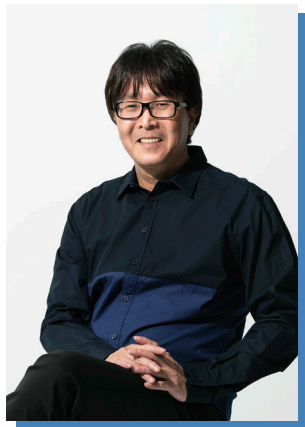


2019 original design  
Leiji Matsumoto



2023 original design  
Yoichi Takahashi

# GUESTS 2023



## ◇ YOICHI TAKAHASHI ◇

Yōichi Takahashi, a great fan of sports, takes a passion for soccer during the 1978 World Cup in Argentina.

Yōichi Takahashi, great Japanese mangaka, has published in 1980 his first series in the magazine Shōnen Jump, Captain Tsubasa, known as Olive and Tom in France. This football series is a huge success and will even be adapted into an animated television series.

He will held conference and signing sessions.

## ◇ HIRONOBU SAKAGUCHI ◇

Hironobu Sakaguchi is known as the founding father of one of the most incredible franchises of our era, Final Fantasy, which exceeded 100 million units sold worldwide.

Since the creation of his Mistwalker Corporation studio, he has developed other licenses including Blue Dragon, Lost Odyssey, The Last Story, and "Fantasian. Called mustache by his colleagues and fans, he never stopped coming up with new ideas or concepts. Recognized for his body of work throughout the world, he is also the recipient of two high-ranking distinctions the Hall of Fame Award of the Academy of Interactive Arts and Sciences (2000) and the Lifetime Achievement Award of the GDC ( 2015).

He will be present at conferences and autograph sessions.



## ◇ AYAMI KOJIMA ◇

Ayami Kojima is a Japanese illustrator and artistic designer known in particular for her work on the Castlevania series by Konami. After graduating from university, she worked on illustrations for books and games.

She uses the technique of pen, painting and handwriting, to illustrate historical and fantastic works. She adapted the film Santa Sangre directed by A. Jodorowsky into an art book.

She will held a conference and signing sessions.

## ◇ KOJI IGARASHI ◇

Koji Higarashi one of the legends behind the Castlevania series !

He started at Konami during the 90's. He had a huge impact on games with his well know game Castlevania: Symphony of the Night (Playstation) in 1997 as an assistant director, programmer and writer. The style and gameplay of Koji Higarashi influenced futur Castlevania titles, of wich he remained the producer until 2010.

In 2014 he co-fonded studio ArtPlay. He releases the game Bloodstained: Ritual of the Night in 2019, financed on Kickstarted with more than 5.5 Millions dollars. The Bloodstained series counts 3 titles, all written and produced by Koji Higarashi.

He will be at MAGIC 2023 he will held conference and signing sessions.







## ◇ THOMAS PESQUET ◇

An engineer by training with a degree from Supaéro, he joined CNES, the French space agency, from 2002 to 2004, as a research engineer on the autonomy of space missions.

In 2006, he obtained his airline pilot license after completing Air France training. It was in May 2009 that he was selected to become an astronaut.

He joined ESA in September 2009 and completed his initial training in November 2010. Thomas followed additional technical and operational training in Europe, Russia and the United States.

He will carry out 2 missions in space in 2016 then in 2021 when he becomes the first French commander of the International Space Station (ISS).

He will be present at conferences and signing sessions.

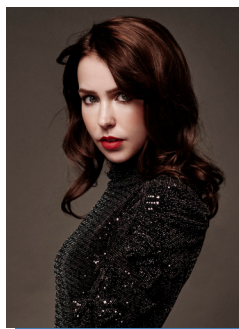
## ◇ STEFANIE JOOSTEN ◇

Stefanie Joosten began her career as a model and actress while living and studying in Japan.

In the mid-2010s, Stefanie focused primarily on acting and had an international career breakthrough when she was cast as Quiet, the lead female character in the video game Metal Gear Solid V: The Phantom Pain.

She is currently starring in Soulstice, where she lends her voice to two characters - the sisters Briar and Lute. In the upcoming title Wanted: Dead, she plays gunsmith Vivienne Niemantsverdriet.

In 2022, Stefanie launched her singing career with her first album Singing To The Sky produced by Georgio Moroder



## ◇ NICK DUDMAN ◇

Nick Dudman got his start in film as an intern for British make-up artist Stuart Freeborn, working on Star Wars' Jedi Master Yoda. Afterwards, he worked on many productions, Interview with the Vampire, Batman (creating Jack Nicholson's Joker) and Judge Dredd.

In 1995, his career branched out into animatronics when he joined Luc Besson on The Fifth Element, for which he won a BAFTA for best visual effects.

His greatest achievement remains his work on the entire Harry Potter saga, for which he received numerous BAFTA nominations and one Oscar nomination.

Nick Dudman is honored to be a member of the jury of the cosplay contest, the MICM.

## ◇ RONNY TURIAF ◇

Ronny Turiaf is known as a professional basketball player, member of the France team alongside Tony Parker and Boris Diaw.

NBA champion in 2012 with the Miami Heat, he is now an ambassador for the NBA Junior. Basketball instilled in him hard work, team spirit and dedication.

He creates the Heart to Heart Foundation, which supports children with heart problems.

Passionate about art and books. He is the founder of Maison Verv'eau, a creative residence.

A collaborative space where like-minded creatives come to work on specific projects, share unique experiences...

He will be present at the press conference and autograph session.





# GUESTS 2023



## ◇ WILLIAM SIMPSON ◇

William Simpson started his career working on Irish comics, such as Warrior and 2000 AD.

Then, he joined the big comic industries such as DC Comics or Marvel Comics, which allowed him to take an international dimension. He worked on Batman, Judge Dredd, Aliens, Transformers or John Constantine of Hellblazer.

Since 2000, he has been working for the film industry as a Storyboarder for projects such as Reign of Fire or City of Shadows. He has also illustrated a few animated films.

In 2011, he joins the team of the Game of Thrones series as the main storyboarder.



## ◇ DONOVAN ◇

Donovan Haessy is a young magician, 22 years old from a small Alsatian village.

Today, he is a star of social networks, on Youtube and Tik Tok with more than two million subscribers.

His specialty "street magic", or the magic of the streets. It is by practicing his art as close as possible to the public that he made himself known.

Donovan started magic at the age of 13, passionate about the world of superheroes. After his baccalaureate, he won a television competition, which opened the doors to festivals.

He has his own show in Paris. His performances are sold out every session.



## ◇ JACKY ◇ ANIMATEUR MAGIC

Press officer for various French and international artists, he worked with Serge Gainsbourg, Alain Bashung, Cat Stevens, Elton John and Bob Marley... Jacky became a television host in the 80s with Les Enfants du Rock and Platine 45. Then for 10 years as host of Club Dorothée on TF1. He is the idol of the entire 80/90 generation!

Today he is a host on IDF1.

## ◇ KAREN GREEN ◇

Curator of comics and cartoons at Columbia University in New York. She initiated the Butler Library's graphic novel collection in 2005 and has been acquiring archives of comic book creators since 2011.



## ◇ THE ASTURIA GIRLS ◇

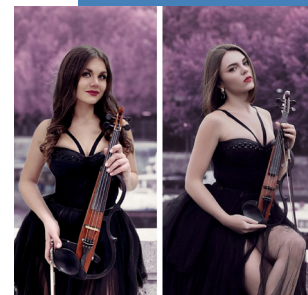


Four talented young women form this electric string quartet. Miroslava (cello), Ruslana, Anastasia et Hanna (violons) met on the benches of the national academy of music in kyiv (Ukraine).

They are revolutionizing the world of classical music with revisited interpretations like Vivaldi's Tempest.

Today they have adopted a repertoire steeped in pop culture. Lady Gaga, Madonna, Beyoncé, or the Rolling Stones are on their program.

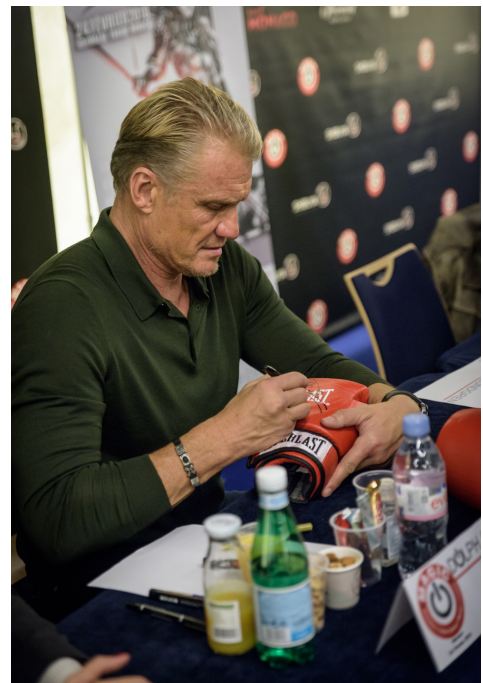
Come and discover them during Ayami Kojima's live drawing session.







## PREVIOUS EDITIONS GUESTS





# PROGRAMME

## INTERNATIONAL CONTESTS

# Magic International Manga Contest

Despite the postponed MAGIC from 2020, Shibuya Productions and Shueisha have decided to continue the manga contest in remote.

For the past three years, the finalists have sent a video to present and defend their work in front of the jury. We present the winners and runners-up.

**All the works are online on Shonen Jump +**


## 2020

**Winner : *Dreamers***

Charles Compain (France) 



**Runner-up : *Truffle Pig***

Kine Gunot (France) 



## 2021

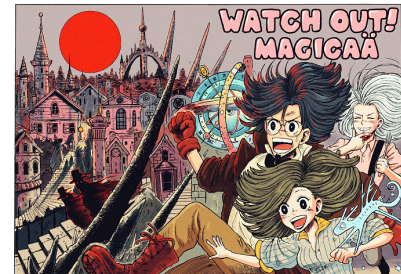
**Winner : *Imago***

Toan Tran et Samuel Van der Veen (France) 



**Runner-Up : *Watch out ! Magicaä***

Valerie Yugay (Russie) 



# 2022

## Winner : Watchaland

Théodore Magloire Ekane Ekane  
(Cameroon) 🇨🇲



Théodore Ekane (27 years old) Cameroonian, Théodore Ekane is very quickly passionate about drawing. Always passionate about drawing, it is finally in the world of video games that he makes his career. In 2018, he founded the animation studio Abyl with friends. Since then, he works there while drawing manga.

*"I am feeling really happy and lucky to be the big winner of the MAGIC international manga Contest. To have the opportunity to have my manga read by the Japanese public is a great honor for me. Thanks to Shueisha and Shibuya Productions for this great initiative."*

## Runner-up : Re:Coil

Maria Enjelia Villanueva  
(The Philippines) 🇵🇭



Maria Enjelia Villanueva (30 years old) Aspiring manga artist, she started to be interested in manga as a child, but started to draw seriously in high school, learning digital drawing in a self-taught way.

She currently works as a freelance designer under the pseudonym "Enjelicious": she draws manga and webtoons, some of which have been published in the Philippines. Her dream is to one day succeed in joining Shueisha as a mangaka.

## Jury's favourite : True Ikigai

Loïck Ngue et Kouadio Ahigo  
(France) 🇫🇷



Loïck Ngue, scenario (24 years old) He studied sports business. He made his debut in publishing with a first work on the theme of soccer published in France in 2021.

Kouadio Ahigo, drawings (20 years old) student in plastic arts. The line of the author Masashi Kishimoto has strongly influenced his graphic style.





# 2023



This new 2023 edition was once again a great success with more than 63 participants from 18 nationalities. The last straight line for the 5 finalists of the 2023 edition, who will present and defend their work in front of an international Jury.

The 5 finalists are :

- *Blooming* by Vorop (Russia) 
- *Ce qui me rend heureux* by Heol (France) 
- *Miriam of the skulls* by Elena Vitagliano (Great Britain) 
- *Bookhead* by 2147 (France) 
- *Mega Gear* by Noa (scenario) and Ivan Navinkin (drawings) (Russia) 

The winner will travel to Japan with a member of the Shibuya Productions team, to meet with officials from the Shueisha publishing house. They will also be able to benefit from precious advices for their future career, given by the greatest Japanese Mangaka, whom they will have the chance to meet during this stay of several weeks.

See you in June 2023, for the 8th edition and try your chance to join the very closed circle of international works published on Shonen Jump +.

# MAGIC INTERNATIONAL COSPLAY MASTERS (MICM)

Since its launch in 2016, the MICM has continued to grow by welcoming more and more talented competitors. Each cosplayer must, in order to participate in the competition, make an original and original costume for the competition.

This costume, exclusively handmade, can be compared to haute couture by the details, the high-end finishes and have nothing to envy the professionals of the discipline. The performances made during the contest are real artistic or physical performances.

To fully enjoy this show, 3 professional cosplayers will present this unique show.



## An international presentation



◇ LADY LEMON ◇ 

Argentinean professional cosplayer. Her passion goes back to her childhood, she has one of the most beautiful gallery of characters of which the famous Wonder Woman.



◇ HORO VON KAÏDA ◇ 

Greek professional cosplayer. Her passion for cosplay has allowed her to participate in many international competitions.



◇ PICHU COSPLAY ◇ 

French cosplayer. Active since the 1st MAGIC, she has become over the years, an essential presenter of the MAGIC Monaco.

## A jury of experts.



◇ NICK DUDMAN ◇ 

Nick Dudman is an indisputable specialist in film make-up. He has worked on the Harry Potter saga, but also on blockbusters such as Star Wars, Batman, Judge Dredd or The Fifth Element, for which he received a BAFTA for best visual effects.



◇ REIKA ◇ 

One of the most renowned professional cosplayers in the world. She regularly participates as a judge in international cosplay competitions around the world since 2015.



◇ RIAN CYD ◇ 

Indonesian professional cosplayer. Winner of the Magic International Cosplay Masters in 2019, he automatically becomes a member of the jury for this year's competition.

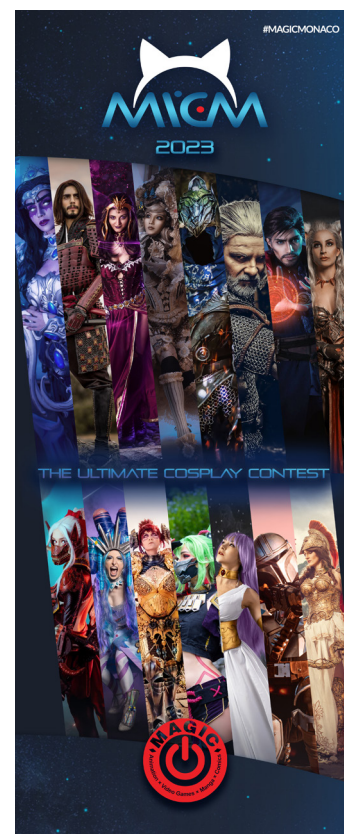
For this 5th edition, find the best cosplayers selected for the MICM 2023.

We have the honor to welcome back 2 of the 3 winners of the 2019 edition, who are counting on winning the grail in 2023.

## Presentation of competitors

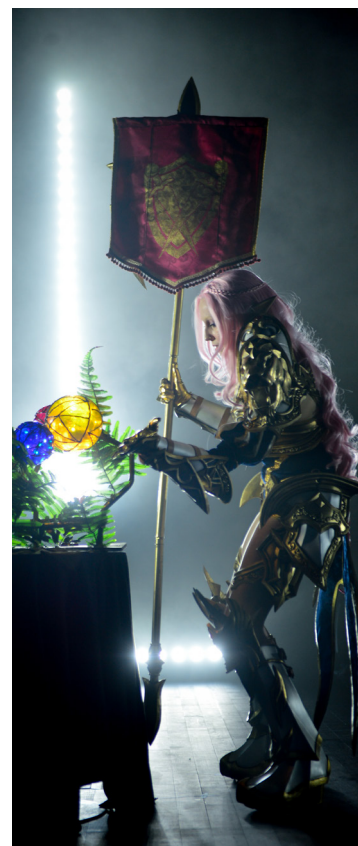
ADAMI LANGLEY Brazilia  
Runner-up in 2019  
NYMESIA COSPLAY Portugal  
ZEPHON COS France  
MEISHAMOCK USA  
ERZA COSPLAY Germany  
ERGHTOAST COSPLAY Spain  
LUCE COSPLAY Italia  
SATY MOO COSPLAY France

BANANA COSPBOY LUIS Mexico  
3rd in 2019  
FABIBI WORLD COSPLAY Chile  
MEG COSPLAY Turkey  
C-L CONCEPTION Switzerland  
SAKURAFLO The Netherlands  
KUROKAREN Portugal  
PTYTB ART ATELIER Viet Nam



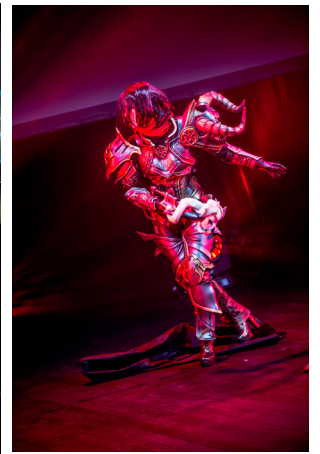


## FOCUS ON THE MAGIC





# INTERNATIONAL COSPLAY MASTERS





## ROUND TABLE DEBATS - CONFERENCES

MAGIC offers conferences and round tables with the particularity of associating personalities from different worlds in a relaxed atmosphere.

In 2019, the conference on the theme of space between real and imaginary, gathering Leiji Matsumoto, creator of Albator, and Jean-François Clervoix, the French astronaut, was an unforgettable moment for the whole audience.

In 2018 the performance of Dolph Lundgren simulating a boxing match with the moderator on stage, demonstrates the festive, friendly and unique spirit of MAGIC Monaco.



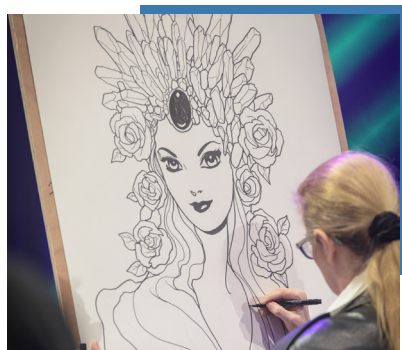
## SIGNING SESSIONS

Our guests are happy to take part in free signing sessions. A privileged moment for the public who can meet and exchange with their favorite stars in a climate of proximity and good mood.



## LIVE DRAWING SESSIONS

For the greatest pleasure of the audience, discover the stars of comics, comics and manga on stage for a unique live drawing session.





## EXHIBITION AREA

The exhibition area offers deliberately only a few quality stands, in order to leave more space to the cultural part of the event.

### Activ5

Your new companion to stay in shape. This connected pebble will allow you to exercise wherever you are. Take back control of your well-being!

### Alfa BD

Our partner bookstore will offer you all the best works of our guests.

### Bang Boo Café

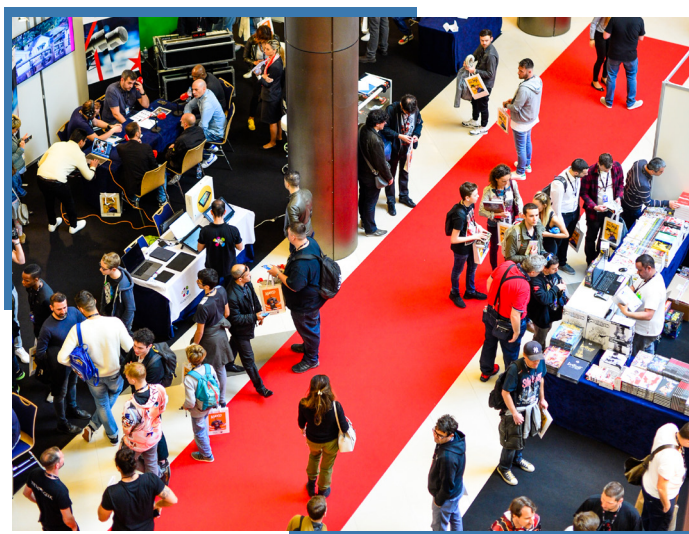
A little corner of Japan live from MAGIC. Discover and taste authentic Asian street food, healthy and tasty. Let your taste buds travel to the Land of the Rising Sun!

### The Nice Geek,

Geek association made in Nice specialized in the organization of free video game tournaments.

On the program, tournaments on PS5, PS4 and Nintendo Switch.

Presentation of the games developed by Shibuya Productions.



### League Of Replica,

Official supplier of costumes dedicated to cosplay. Let yourself be tempted and enter this pop culture universe !

### La Médiathèque de Monaco,

Will offer a space for entertainment, reading, chess initiation and drawing, which will allow everyone to learn in the best conditions.

### Shibuya Productions,

Will present all its news. Come and discover in exclusivity the new productions, including volume 9 of Blitz as well as volume 2 of the English language version.

### Salut un café,

Discover the drink created especially for for the MAGIC as well as a quality snack area.

### Radio Monaco,

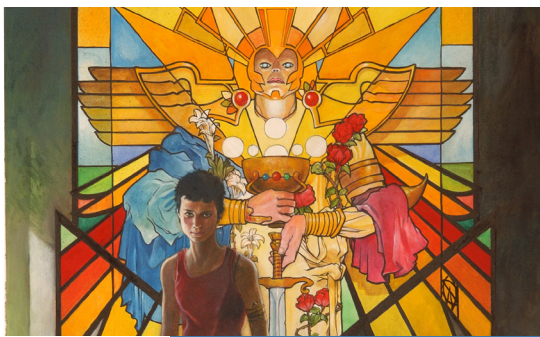
Live broadcast "special MAGIC" where all the interviews of the exceptional guests of the show will be broadcast.

### Lescargotgraphe,

Official photographer of the MICM. Come and enjoy his studio and have your portrait taken by one of the most talented photographers of his generation.

## 2 EXHIBITIONS

**William Simpson** : Presentation of his original drawings made during his career. The Game of Thrones storyboarder will also be present all day in a live drawing session for the pleasure of the visitors.

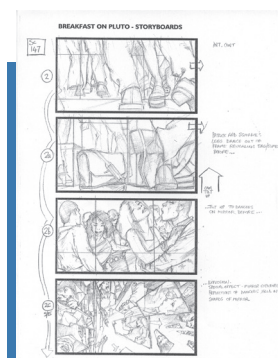


**Blitz Origines** : Presentation of the first exhibition focusing entirely on the manga Blitz, which took place in partnership with the Louis Nucéra library of the city of Nice from October 20, 2022 to February 2, 2023. The exhibition was a great success since it welcomed more than 20 000 visitors.



## 2 ATELIERS

**William Simpson** offers you a discovery workshop "How to become a comic artist". A high-end initiation with the Games of Thrones storyboarder for drawing enthusiasts. Come and test your talents.



**The intuition** : Alexis Champion, researcher, specialist in intuition and contributor to the manga Blitz will present with Marie-Estelle Couval, how to develop your intuition through fun games? Become an ace of intuition.



# PRESENTATION OF SHIBUYA PRODUCTIONS

created by Cédric Biscay et Kostadin Yanev



Founded in 2014 and born from an expertise from Japan, Shibuya Productions, is the very first video game, animation and manga production company in the history of the Principality of Monaco.

This company is known for its ability to innovate in the entertainment sector.

To do so, it puts its skills at the service of 3 fundamental axes :

- > The production, development and creation of innovative transmedia content for publishing film, television and video game platforms
- > The creation of multicultural intellectual properties for an international audience,
- > The creation of multicultural intellectual properties for an international audience,
- > The promotion of forgotten classic works that are not easily accessible to the general public.

One of the main characteristics of Shibuya Productions is to bring together Art, Science and Education in each of its projects in order to make them accessible to as many people as possible.

Shibuya Productions is also the creator of the MAGIC events in Monaco and Kyoto, which have become references in Europe and Japan in the world of Pop Culture.





## A unique know-how recognized internationally

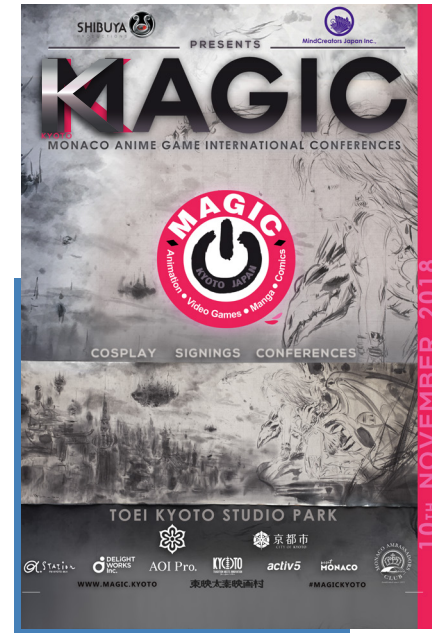


In just a few editions, MAGIC has made its mark on the international scene. It is this audacity and originality that has allowed us to export the Magic Monaco directly to the Land of the Rising Sun, temple of Pop Culture.

The Japanese authorities in Kyoto contacted us to export our concept to their country.

We responded by adapting it to the codes of Japanese society. Thus MAGIC KYOTO was born, reinforcing the links between Monaco and Japan.

Two editions have already taken place in 2018 and 2019 at the Toei Kyoto Studio Park, the famous studio where the legendary Japanese director Akira Kurosawa.



# OUR NEWS

## *BLITZ* Volume 9, released on February 23, 2023

With nearly 100,000 volumes sold in less than 3 years, Blitz has established itself in the world of manga as a safe bet.

Volume 9 will be presented to the public at MAGIC 2023.

### Synopsis

After one bad performance after another, Tom is in doubt. Seeing that his friend is not doing well, Motoki invites him to his house in Hiroshima.

Tom tells him about Caissa, who disturbs him and even seems to block him when he plays.

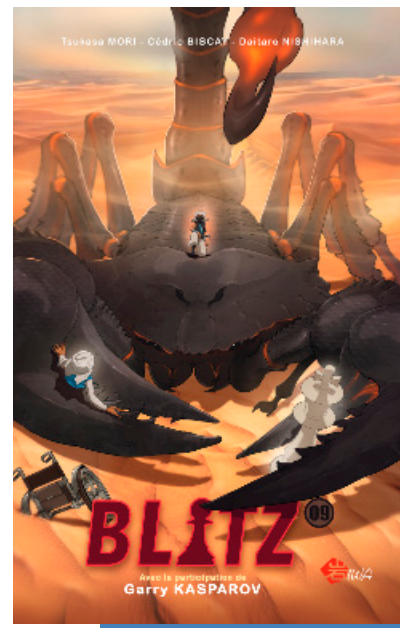
They go to Motoki's club and meet the United States Champion Simon "Mad Dog" Bull, who ends up, after some negotiations, revealing the existence of a strange technique called V-ZON.

Tom immediately puts Simon's recommendations into practice, and they pay off.

The qualifications for the Monaco Chess Grand Prix begin. All our friends have registered and the first results are coming in...

Against all expectations Motoki, who had decided to pass the qualifications on the internet, is put in difficulty by an unexpected opponent.

Who among the ISS team members will manage to qualify for the prestigious Monaco Chess Grand Prix?



## *BLITZ* Volume 2 USA, released on spring 2023

*BLITZ* conquered North America, the United Kingdom and Australia with the release of Volume 2, 5 months after Volume 1.

The magic continues to work on the other side of the Atlantic where the manga receives a warm welcome.

Volume 3 is scheduled to be released next fall.

## *ASTROBOY Reboot*

Shibuya Productions and Méthode Animation have joined forces to relaunch the Astoboy license, a jewel of Osumu Tezuka's work, a true pop culture icon.

With 100 million copies sold worldwide, Astroboy is one of the most popular manga of all time. The fantastic adventures of the little robot with a big heart are all linked by very strong values that continue to resonate in all of us.

This new series of 52 episodes of 26 minutes carries the values of the original character and several major social issues will be addressed: the technological upheavals initiated by the arrival of the Internet and social networks and their often harmful impact on man, segregation in all its forms and the resulting relationships of domination, or the destruction of the environment by humans.

The series will be directed by Thomas Astruc, creator and director of *Miraculous : The Adventures of Ladybug and Black Cat*.





## OFFICIAL PARTNERS



## PARTNERS



## ORGANIZATION PARTNERS





## **TEAM MAGIC/SHIBUYA PRODUCTIONS**

- ◆ Cédric BISCAY
- ◆ Dominique LANGEVIN
- ◆ Hervé TROUILLET
- ◆ Sophie FABRELLO
- ◆ Laurent LOPOPOLO
- ◆ Yasuharu SADAIE
- ◆ Ai WATANABE

Mail : [info@magic-ip.com](mailto:info@magic-ip.com) • [info@shibuya-productions.com](mailto:info@shibuya-productions.com)

Website : <http://www.magic-ip.com> • <http://www.shibuya-productions.com>

Phone : +377 97 77 03 46

Adress : Villa Bianca 29, rue du Portier - 98 000 Monaco

PRESS CONTACT :

Sophie FABRELLO

Mail : [sophie@shibuya-productions.com](mailto:sophie@shibuya-productions.com)

Mobile : 06 40 62 38 62



looking forward to seeing you !

## REGISTRATION OPEN FOR PRESS ACCREDITATION.

### **PRESS CONTACT**

Tel. : +377 97 77 03 46 • [press@magic-ip.com](mailto:press@magic-ip.com)

Mobile. : + 33 (0)6 40 62 38 62 • [sophie@shibuya-productions.com](mailto:sophie@shibuya-productions.com)

NEWS AND INFORMATION ON THE WEBSITE:

**[WWW.MAGIC-IP.COM](http://WWW.MAGIC-IP.COM)**



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